

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A composition comprising a copper species supported on a porous transition alumina, said composition having a copper to aluminum atomic ratio in the range 0.14 to 0.5 and having, upon reduction of the copper species with hydrogen at 250°C, a copper surface area of at least 60m<sup>2</sup> per gram of copper, wherein said transition alumina has a pore volume in the range of 0.3 to 1.0 ml/g.

10. (Original) A composition according to claim 9 having a BET surface area above 80m<sup>2</sup>/g.

11. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9 having a copper to aluminum atomic ratio of at least 0.16.

12. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the composition, following reduction, contains at least 60 wt.% of alumina.

13. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the composition is essentially free from compounds of zinc and magnesium.

14. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the composition has, upon reduction of the copper species with hydrogen at 250 °C, a copper surface area of at least 80 m<sup>2</sup> per gram of copper.

15. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the composition is in the form of shaped units suitable for use as fixed bed catalysts or sorbents.

16. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 15, wherein each shaped unit is at least 1 mm in size.

17. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 16, wherein each shaped unit is 1-15mm in size.

18. (Previously presented) A composition according to claim 9, wherein the alumina is in the form of a powder having a surface-weighted mean diameter of 1-100 microns.

19. (New) A composition according to claim 9, wherein said transition alumina has a pore volume in the range from 0.45 to 1 ml/g.

20. (New) A composition comprising a porous transition alumina and a copper species coated thereon, said composition having a copper to aluminum atomic ratio in the range 0.14 to 0.5 and having, upon reduction of the copper species with hydrogen at 250°C, a copper surface area of at least 60m<sup>2</sup> per gram of copper.

21. (New) A composition comprising a copper species supported on a porous transition alumina, said composition having a copper to aluminum atomic ratio in the range 0.14 to 0.5 and having, upon reduction of the copper species with hydrogen at 250°C, a copper surface area of at least 60m<sup>2</sup> per gram of copper, wherein said transition alumina has an average pore diameter in the range of 80 to 266 angstroms.

22. (New) A composition according to claim 21, wherein said transition alumina has a pore volume in the range from 0.30 to 1.0 ml/g.

23. (New) A composition according to claim 21, wherein said transition alumina has a pore volume in the range from 0.45 to 1.0 ml/g.